

## Comments on RM-10811

I would like to voice my support for Petition RM-10811 relative to the CW licensing requirements for HF privileges.

I believe this Petition strikes a good balance in the important goals of continuation of the most traditional and often most effective mode of HF communication, and encouraging new entrants into the ham radio hobby. It allows significant HF privileges without having to involve CW in any way. But it also provides an attractive incentive for those who are willing to put forth the effort to learn the code.

Let me offer my own history with the code, which I believe might be typical of those who are proficient in the code today. I received my Novice license in January 1962 (KN7SAW). I dreamed of getting my General license for several months, and studied hard to learn the material. Of course all the while I was enjoying operating with my Novice license, and getting some code proficiency, so that I could pass the 13 WPM upgrade requirement. By the time I took my General test, my code speed was over 15 wpm.

I received my General license (K7SAW) in July of 1962, and derived great enjoyment with my new phone privileges. Interestingly, I found myself going back to CW more and more, since I really enjoyed the mode, and it was often much more effective in crowded band conditions, or in poor band conditions. CW became my preferred operating mode.

When “incentive licensing” was introduced in about 1967, I found myself about to lose some operating privileges because I did not hold an Extra class license. So I studied to obtain that license, which was received in 1968. Of course in those days the Extra license required 20 wpm, which was easy for me by that time, since I had been primarily a CW operator for several years.

Here’s my main point. I don’t know many, if any, CW operators who entered the ham radio hobby because they were anxious to get on the air and use Morse code. And I don’t know many, if any, who are CW operators who didn’t have some “forced” incentive to get beyond the 5-wpm level. It’s simply not fun at that level. But having an incentive to move to 13 wpm got me to the level where I could enjoy the mode, and with continuing use, it became my favorite mode. I operate 99% CW today, and it continues to be a great source of enjoyment for me.

Without a higher-than-five wpm incentive, the CW mode will die out, as there will be no new CW operators introduced into the system. As I said at first, this would be the sad end of the most traditional and often most effective mode of HF communication for our hobby.

Please seriously consider approving RM-10811.

Thank you very much,  
Tom Rohlfing (W7GT)